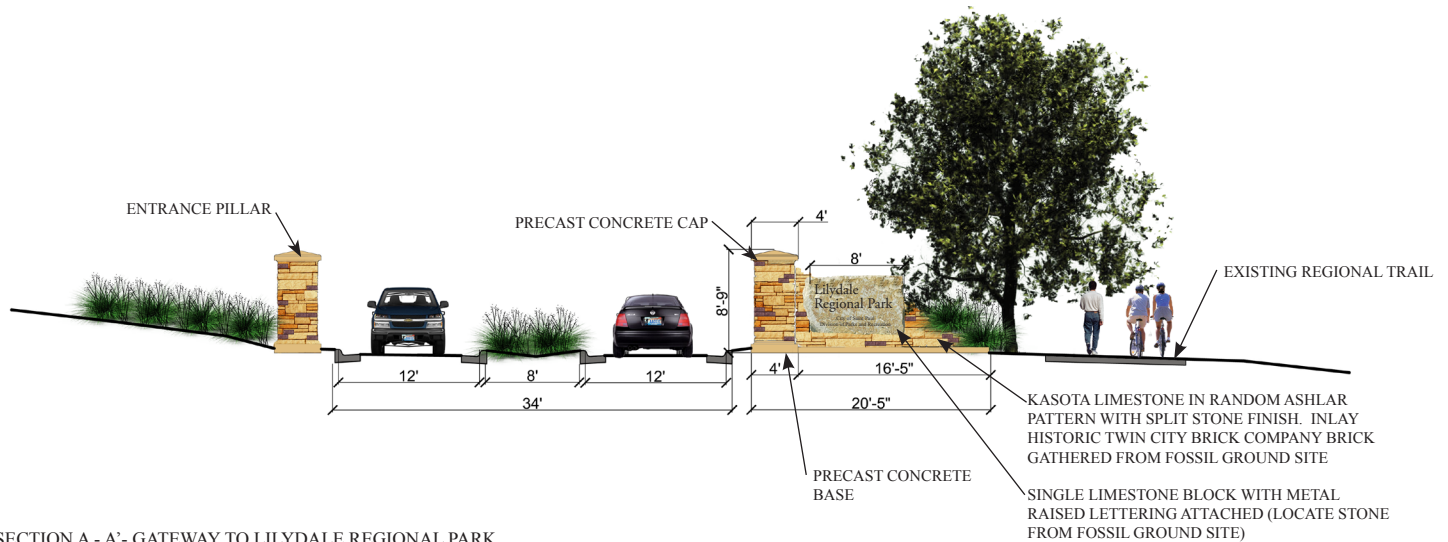




## Lilydale Regional Park Master Planning Update

Since the last Design Advisory Task Force Meeting on June 26, work has continued on the Master Planning Process for Lilydale Regional Park and Pickerel Lakeshore Improvements. Below is an update:

- A Request for Proposal was advertised to complete a Natural Resource Management Plan for the entire Lilydale Regional Park. Bonestroo was selected from the 8 firms that submitted a proposal. Bonestroo plans to begin their work of gathering existing site data this fall, with a report completed in December 2008. The project team will consist of a Senior Ecologist, Wetland Scientists, Water Resource Engineers, Contaminated Soils specialist, Wildlife Ecologist, Hydraulic Specialist and GIS staff. The Natural Resource Management Plan will provide valuable information on the existing natural resources within the park as well as recommendations on restoration of disturbed areas. The Management Plan will play a key role in refining the final Master Plan for Lilydale Regional Park.
- The Bait Shop at 350 Water Street was demolished and topsoil and seed were installed in its place. A Gateway/Entrance Sign to Lilydale Regional Park near the location of the Bait Shop at the northern edge of Lilydale Regional Park is desired, demarking the entrance to the park. A design and cost estimate for the Gateway were developed to reflect the overall nature of Lilydale Regional Park. A combination of limestone and historic brick-yard bricks are combined with native planting to mark the entrance of Lilydale Regional Park to reflect a passive, natural resource based regional park. Construction documents are currently being developed to gather bids for installation costs.



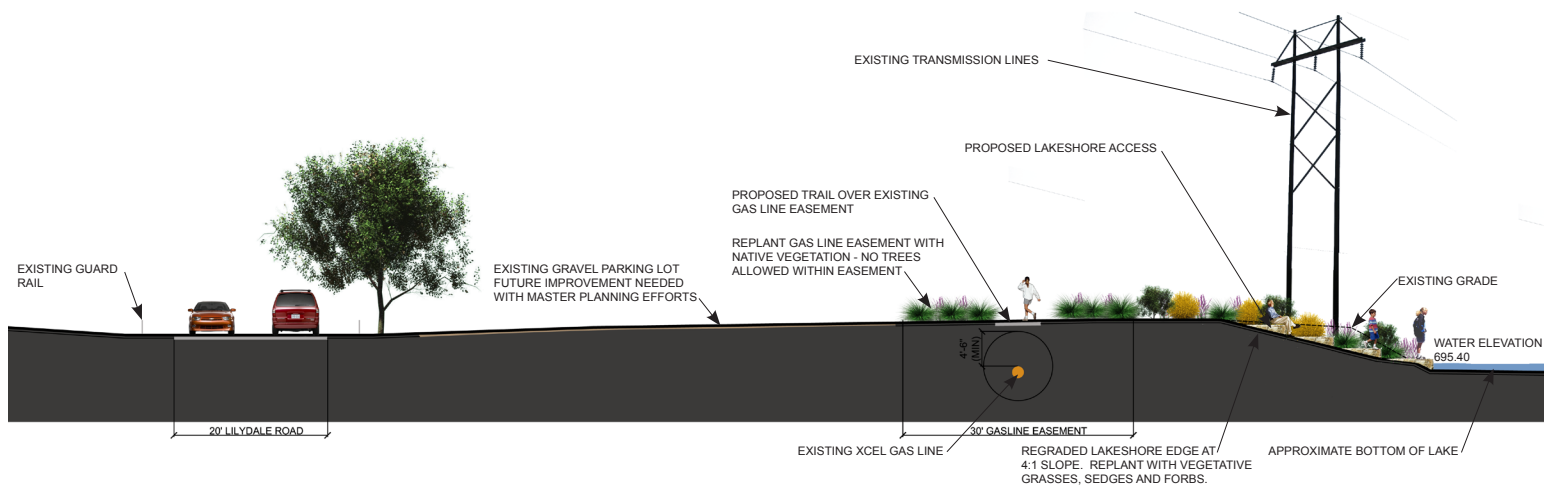
- An informal survey was created to receive feedback on design aspects to be included within the Master Plan. The survey was posted on the City of Saint Paul web site and 340 people responded. A preliminary look at the results reflect high improvement areas to be; the addition of public rest rooms and water service, an off leash dog park, preservation and enhancement of natural areas, and restoration of the Mississippi River Bank. Please note, this survey was distributed to the STPdog group by an off leash dog park advocate specifically asking for everyone to rank the off leash dog park as “Very Important”. A separate meeting discussing the incorporation of an off leash dog park within Lilydale Regional Park will be held once the Natural Resource Management Plan is completed and an assessment made on the viability of a dog park within Lilydale.

## Survey Results:

How important are the following features and improvements:

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat	Unimportant	Very Unimportant
Picnic Area with Tables and Grills	11.9% (36)	32.1% (97)	28.1% (85)	19.5% (59)	8.3% (25)
On Road Bike Lane	25.6% (78)	27.9% (85)	27.9% (85)	12.5% (38)	6.2% (19)
Interpretive Signage	9.6% (29)	21.2% (64)	37.1% (112)	23.8% (72)	8.3% (25)
Interpretive Building / Picnic Shelter	7.5% (23)	23.1% (71)	36.5% (112)	21.8% (67)	11.1% (34)
Public Restrooms and Water Service	37.1% (116)	34.8% (109)	17.9% (56)	7.7% (24)	2.6% (8)
Wildlife Viewing/Observation Opportunities	24.3% (75)	32.0% (99)	29.8% (92)	11.3% (35)	2.6% (8)
Butterfly Garden	10.8% (33)	27.8% (85)	33.7% (103)	21.2% (65)	6.5% (20)
Off Leash Dog Park	74.3% (251)	7.7% (26)	3.3% (11)	4.1% (14)	10.7% (36)
Naturalize Pickerel Lake Shore	26.1% (79)	34.3% (104)	29.0% (88)	8.9% (27)	1.7% (5)
Preservation and Enhancement of Natural Areas	44.9% (141)	35.0% (110)	17.5% (55)	1.9% (6)	0.6% (2)
Boardwalk Connection to Fossil Grounds	11.4% (35)	32.6% (100)	33.9% (104)	15.3% (47)	6.8% (21)
Pickerel Lake Fishing Pier	7.1% (21)	20.4% (60)	30.3% (89)	31.0% (91)	11.2% (33)
Trail Heads with Maps and Signage	20.3% (63)	39.2% (122)	27.7% (86)	9.3% (29)	3.5% (11)
Inter-connected Trails within Park	35.1% (111)	40.8% (129)	20.3% (64)	2.5% (8)	1.3% (4)
Eliminate Metal Roadway Barriers and Provide a Curved Parkway-like Road	15.8% (48)	27.0% (82)	30.6% (93)	20.7% (63)	5.9% (18)
Park Gateway/Identification Monuments/Kiosks	4.3% (13)	23.1% (70)	34.3% (104)	27.7% (84)	10.6% (32)
Improve Safety: increase visibility, provide street lighting, increase use/activity, and eliminate path/vehicle conflicts	36.3% (114)	38.5% (121)	16.9% (53)	6.7% (21)	1.6% (5)
Invasive Plant Removal on Land and Water	29.6% (91)	37.5% (115)	25.1% (77)	6.8% (21)	1.0% (3)
Restore Mississippi River Bank	41.3% (130)	37.5% (118)	18.4% (58)	2.5% (8)	0.3% (1)
Canoe Access to Pickerel Lake	17.1% (53)	31.0% (96)	33.5% (104)	15.2% (47)	3.2% (10)
Bicycle, Canoe, Ski, Snowshoe Rental Facility	14.1% (44)	22.1% (69)	32.4% (101)	20.5% (64)	10.9% (34)
Camping Sites for Youth Groups	7.9% (24)	20.1% (61)	36.5% (111)	22.7% (69)	12.8% (39)
Youth Group Camp Sites	7.0% (21)	21.9% (66)	26.2% (79)	29.6% (89)	15.3% (46)
Gated Park Entrances to Control Vehicular Access	17.0% (52)	26.2% (80)	24.3% (74)	21.3% (65)	11.1% (34)
Reduce Intrusive Elements: overhead utilities, fill areas, road straightaways	24.1% (74)	33.6% (103)	32.2% (99)	8.1% (25)	2.0% (6)
Improve Water Quality of Pickerel Lake through Storm Water Management	39.0% (123)	40.0% (126)	18.1% (57)	2.5% (8)	0.3% (1)

- Construction funding is currently available for lakeshore improvements to Pickerel Lake. Preliminary plans are being developed that will restore the lakeshore to a natural condition, remove invasive plant material and provide access to specific locations along the lakeshore. Below is a proposed sketch along Pickerel Lake illustrating a trail along the lakeshore with specialized lakeshore access points.



## Next Steps....

- After receiving, reviewing and assessing the Natural Resource Management Plan, it will be determined if a dog park is an appropriate program element within the Lilydale Regional Park Master Plan. If it is determined that significant natural resources will not be impacted by the inclusion of an off leash dog park, a task force meeting will be held. This will be an informational meeting allowing persons to express the positive and negative aspects of a dog park. The staff recommendation will then go to the Parks Commission for approval.
- The Master Plan for Lilydale Regional Park will be amended with the revised plan and submitted to Metropolitan Council. The Master Plan Amendment process helps Metropolitan Council justify the priority and timing of funding in regional parks capital improvement program.
- Parks and Recreation will continue to actively pursue future funding opportunities to begin implementation of the overall Master Plan.
- Parks and Recreation will continue to discuss Lilydale Road redesign options and funding with Ramsey County, Dakota County and the City of Saint Paul Public Works. The next funding cycle for Metropolitan Parks funds is 2010/2011.
- I will be gone on maternity leave from the middle of October 2008 to April 2009. Jody Martinez and Dave Ronzani will be the main contact persons in my absence. In order to prevent any delays in the schedule, work will continue on the development of lakeshore improvements as well as actively pursuing various funding sources for implementation of the master plan vision for Lilydale Regional Park. They can be contacted at:

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